

REMARKS

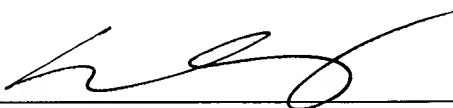
Claims 19, 20, 22, 27, and 29 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 23, and 28 have been amended to clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 1-18, 21, 23-26, and 28 are pending.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 7-17, 21, 23-26 and 28 under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hanson et. al. and Fielding et. al. and claims 5, 6, and 18 under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hanson et. al., Fielding et. al. and Knight. The rejection is respectfully traversed. Hanson and Fielding teach content collaboration among a group of participants connected to a network using email and/or ftp. Knight teaches a user interface that facilitates user interactions with an online message board. As amended, claims 1, 23, and 28 recite creating "a visual indicator to identify the user to other users in the collaborative community wherein the visual indicator protects the privacy of the user." Claims 2-18, and 21 depend from claim 1 and claims 24-26 depend from claim 23, it is therefore believed that these claims are allowable as well.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 10 January 2001



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